

FISCAL NOTE

SB 2992 - HB 3660

March 14, 2006

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes the State Board of Education to develop a curriculum for an elective course in nonreligious academic study of the Bible. Requires the Board to select appropriate texts that would meet the same standards as any other elective course as required for approval by the Textbook Commission. An LEA that elects to offer such a course must implement such course in accordance with U.S. and Tennessee Constitutions. Anyone teaching this course must meet certification requirements and would not be assigned to teach the course based on a particular test or faith.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$9,000 One-Time

**Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - \$394,000 Recurring/Permissive
\$197,000 One-Time/Permissive**

Assumptions:

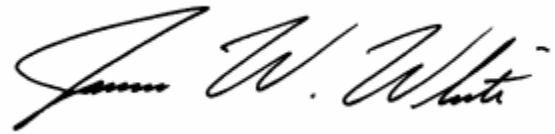
- The cost to the Department of Education to develop a curriculum for the new course is estimated to be approximately \$9,000. Since there is no current base curriculum, additional meetings would be necessary to develop this curriculum framework.
- Any cost incurred by the State Board of Education to adopt the new curriculum is estimated to be not significant since this is a core function of the board.
- It is unknown how many LEAs would choose to offer the new curriculum. This course could potentially be offered in 360 high schools. If one-fourth of these high schools offer the course, then approximately 90 high schools could offer the course one semester per year.
- The course would be half-credit and would be offered at a minimum of once per year for approximately 30 students in each class.
- The cost of a teacher for one semester for one period per day is estimated to be \$4,375 (based on a salary of \$52,500 including benefits).
- Since LEAs already have textbooks and materials for existing electives, it is assumed that LEAs would need to purchase new textbooks for a one-time cost.

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- The cost of a new textbook for a course on Bible studies is estimated to average approximately \$73.00 per book. The cost of textbooks would be incurred by the LEAs the first year, with such expenditure being included in the BEP funding formula in the second year and thereafter.
- The cost to offer one course for one semester per year for 30 students is estimated to be \$6,565. The cost to offer one course in 90 high schools is estimated to be \$590,850.
- No additional classroom space would be required.
- Some elective courses currently offered may be eliminated due to scheduling and demand, thereby equalizing expenditures.
- The LEA would fund professional development, additional course materials, and resource materials, etc. within existing resources.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director